

1-29-2015

# The Daily Gamecock, Thursday, January 29, 2015

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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The

Daily

Gamecock



Stagbriar interview

From Cola to SXSW with folk duo, see Page 4



Jeffrey Davis/ THE DAILY GAMECOCK

This game between the Tigers and the Gamecocks brings the all-time series to an even score of 15-15.

South Carolina misses mark against LSU

Kelli Caldwell  
@TDG\_SPORTS

Coming up short at the end of a game is never a good feeling. South Carolina (10-9, 1-6 SEC) traveled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana to challenge the Tigers (16-4, 5-2 SEC) in order to try and raise the bar on their SEC standings. The momentum of the

Gamecocks was not enough, however, to surpass that of the Tigers who won 64-58. With the recent loss of 58-43 to No. 1 standing Kentucky, South Carolina was looking to find a little bit of magic against LSU. LSU entered this game against South Carolina after a recent tight victory against Vanderbilt 79-75 in overtime. Winning in an overtime game on the road does nothing but fuel the fire needed to beat someone on your own home court, and in the end this fuel was exactly what the Tigers needed. Both teams were ready to play because of the winning streak of two games LSU has on South Carolina, and in their most recent match up last season LSU took the win 71-68. Although the Gamecocks have the upper hand on the Tigers

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Senate goes Greene in debate Wednesday

Brandon Waltz  
@BRANDONDWALTZ

Greene Street was the key topic Wednesday night at the weekly meeting of USC’s Student Senate. The question of whether or not the gates should remain closed, which is being discussed on multiple authoritative levels in Columbia, was brought to the senators. Student Body President Lindsay Richardson presented the topic to Student Senate. The two options currently being debated are either keeping the gates on Greene Street closed to all cars, with the exception of service vehicles, or allowing them to be open from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. on weekdays.

“Senators Goble, LaWall, Zimmerman, Holt and Chin have agreed to all coauthor a resolution. That’s going to be saying we, as the 106th Student Senate on behalf of all students, support the permanent closure of Greene Street Gates,” Student Body Vice President Donnie Iorio said. Richardson presented positives of this plan of closure, including pedestrian safety, a space available for nighttime events such as concerts and a more secure inner campus. She also pointed out that opening the gates would mean losing a location for nighttime activities and reducing pedestrian safety. The resolution will be read at

SeeGREENEPAGE2

New club to take student activism to new level

Brittany Franceschina  
@BRITTA\_FRAN

Last semester after the controversial Ferguson decision, some student leaders unified under the opinion that they did not want things to stay the way they are now. They believe they have the potential to spark change, especially on USC’s campus. These leaders responded to the event of police brutality in Ferguson, Missouri by putting together the “blackout” vigil, as well as a march to the Statehouse. These students are now forming an organization, Students Invested in Change, with a mission for working towards making a difference in the community. “It’s bigger than Ferguson and police brutality,” said Karli Wells, a third-year African American studies student and president of the organization. “The mission is to make a change in the realm of social justice. It’s up to the membership to figure out what that looks like.” The goal of the organization is to not only hold meetings and discussions, but also to get out in the community and host service events. Additionally, they intend to network with alumni and people in political standing throughout Columbia. “The minority community has a lack of action behind thought, and this organization would like to push for more action,” said fourth-year public relations student Kayla Alexander. Although the idea for the organization was sparked by the events of police brutality in Ferguson, the group also hopes to make a change concerning issues like the treatment of the homeless, peer accountability on social media, lasting mentorship for youth, education on sexual harassment and domestic violence. Other topics the members discussed and expressed passion for were the lack of education and laws against hate crimes, especially since there are currently no laws against hate crimes in

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See our opinion on Page 6



Cody Scoggins / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The idea for the new activism club came in part from a Statehouse march following protests in Ferguson.

Student’s anonymous Twitter thrives



Courtesy of Perry Davis

Perry Davis had several failed attempts at creating a successful anonymous twitter before he made @CauseWereClassy, which he now receives a profit to maintain.

Lauren Shirley  
@SURELYLAUREN

With benefits of lots of followers, potential Internet celebrity fame and hundreds of pop-up notifications a day, anonymous social media accounts seem to have become all the rage. But for one lucky USC student, his anonymous twitter account has become both a way of life and a source of income. Perry Davis, a second-year GSCOM and marketing student at USC, has been running an anonymous twitter account since January 2013. The “Cause We’re Classy” (@CauseWereClassy) account posts at least once a day and seems to average a large amount of retweets and favorites. “It started as an account just between me and a couple of my close friends,” Davis said.

“We all wanted to combine and make an anonymous twitter account famous, but we had many failed attempts at doing so for a few weeks.” Davis found the inspiration for @CauseWereClassy after seeing another similar account on Twitter. He amassed 2,000 followers in the first month, 12,000 followers in two and a half months and 127,500 followers after his first year. “I haven’t looked back since,” he said. “I could never have imagined it would turn out like this.” The dream of hundreds of thousands of followers isn’t far from the truth for Davis. With over 200,000 followers on Twitter, he has achieved his goal of online celebrity. “My followers range from all over the country. About 85 percent of

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feed into city council as well.”  
Iorio pointed out that the gates were first closed due to construction and students quickly adapted; one way in particular is that he has noticed many students don’t look both ways when crossing the street anymore. He hopes that a decision to keep the gates closed will allow for Greene Street to become an entirely student-focused space.  
Another topic from the meeting that could potentially affect students is a bill proposed by Sen. Tatiana Chin to begin an energy reduction plan. Chin claimed that cutting the university’s energy use and costs would lead to a cut in tuition costs.  
The proposed plan is necessary to fulfill a state mandate, which requires a 20 percent reduction in

energy usage for anything serving the public, including public institutions such as USC. Chin sought to ignite a competitive spirit by including the fact that Clemson University has already started their program to achieve this goal.  
Two bills passed, one giving permission to allocate funds for a few student organizations and another amending the senate vacancy application process.  
The meeting adjourned with heavy discussion about the gates issue, which does not have to just be between senators. Richardson urges students to contact Student Government with their opinions on this issue and other issues by using Carolina Concerns or the email address of a senator, all of which can be found on the Student Government website.

ACTIVISMPAGE1

South Carolina. A topic of concern was the poor public education system in the “corridor of shame” which includes schools along I-95 that are not given proper federal funding. They also expressed the need for enforcement of the Carolina Creed. Lastly, they hope to educate and increase minority votership in South Carolina.  
“The things we did at the end of last semester had a lot of support. We had a lot of people with conflicting ideas and people were able to express

them without becoming a belligerent argument,” Alexander said. “It was successful because it was a coming together; a meeting of the minds of a lot of people sitting around a table discussing issues.”  
Students Invested in Change plans to implement their ideas and collaborate with other groups to achieve their goals.  
“You get out of it what you put into it. It is open to all students who care about making the community better as a whole,” Wells said.

TWITTERPAGE1

followers are from the United States, with the largest populations being from Kansas, South Carolina and North Carolina,” Davis said.  
Even companies have reached out to Davis to offer incentives and sponsorships because of the amount of reach his account gets. He is sponsored by various companies to tweet out his opinions and offer giveaways and other gifts to his followers. He is currently working with Southern Shirt, American Island Co. and Luxley & Bernard.  
“Many brands have emailed me concerning promotional purchases,” Davis said. “They seek retweets, followers and a larger customer base.”  
It’s not just all retweets and giveaways for Davis, however. The USC student offers a lot of unique

tweets from his own imagination, as well as sourced tweets that come from Tumblr.  
The account has become a way of life for Davis, and he sees it as his own business venture — one that he takes very seriously.  
“I love how running the account has turned into a miniature entrepreneurship project for me. That is why I am still involved in the account today,” he said. “I would have sold it long ago had business opportunities not presented themselves.”  
The Twitter-anonymous life can be a lot to handle for Davis, who is the sole runner of the Twitter account.  
“My favorite part about running the account is that with over 200,000 followers, I will always be able to relate to and or inspire someone,” Davis said.

IN BRIEF

Nobel Prize winner from Greenville dies

Charles Townes, a Greenville native and Nobel laureate, died in California Tuesday, according to The State.  
Townes was best known for his reach that lead to the development of the laser, as well as proving the existence of black holes and discovering the shape of the Milky Way and other galaxies.  
Townes’ experiments lead him to discover how to create a high frequency, short wavelength beam of light, called a maser. This was a realization of one of Einstein’s theories, which Einstein had advanced in 1917.  
His health problems stemmed from a bout of pneumonia in 2013. He was known for being a gentleman, dedicated and hardworking.  
—Madeleine Collins, Assistant News Editor

Judge vacates sentences for civil rights activists

On Wednesday, Judge John C. Hayes vacated the sentences for men known as the Friendship 9, The State reported.  
Hayes declared that they had been wrongly convicted for trespassing and breach of peace. In 1961, the Friendship 9 sat at a whites-only lunch counter in Rock Hill, South Carolina.  
They were arrested and given the option of paying a \$100 fine or spending 30 days in jail. They opted to do time in jail rather than pay money to a segregationist town.  
The Friendship 9 said that they never felt guilty of anything and that they had been prosecuted simply because of their race.  
While history cannot be rewritten, the event on Wednesday was a move to correct the wrongs of the past.  
—Madeleine Collins, Assistant News Editor

Fifth arrest made in connection with Columbia child-sex ring

After a tip from the community identifying his whereabouts, Andrey Kucherin, 42, was arrested Wednesday morning at his residence and charged with second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor, The State reported.  
Kucherin is the fifth and final person that has been arrested in the child-sex ring Sheriff Leon Lott referred to as the “Five Monsters,” which included a Richland County reserve deputy and his son.  
A Richland Country Sheriff’s Department investigation showed that he and the four other members of the ring had been sexually exploiting three females ages 10, 13 and 15 for almost two years. Lott said that former Richland County Reserve Deputy Michael Collum, 43, was the leader of the sex ring.  
—Natalie Pita, News Editor

CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. Email editor@dailygamecock.com and we will print the correction in our next issue.



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Courtesy of Stagbriar

Stagbriar’s Emily McCollum is big in Columbia’s music scene, playing in the city since childhood and helping with Girls Rock Columbia.

# Cola’s Stagbriar brother-sister folk powerhouse

Emily Olyarchuck  
@TDG\_ARTS

Some people can’t stand their brother, but Emily McCollum has made a career with hers. Fourth-year mass communication student Emily McCollum started piano lessons when she was six years old, and since then music has never left her life. After a few years of playing oboe in her middle school band, McCollum picked up the guitar and began writing music. A little over two years ago, McCollum teamed up with her brother, Alex, to form the space-folk band Stagbriar, a band named after a street from their childhood. Stagbriar released its first album, “Quasi-

Hymns, Murder-Ballads, and Tales of How the Hero Died,” in May 2013. The album features Emily McCollum on vocals and guitar, Alex McCollum on vocals and guitar and Brandon Edwards on the drums. The band has also started writing their second album. “We were really excited and surprised by the outcome of the first record,” Emily McCollum said. “We’ve been writing like crazy, but no release date has been set. If people are waiting, we want to give them something that will make them happy.” Although playing with a sibling is not always easy, Emily McCollum knows that their sibling relationship has pushed the band to more creative

limits and allowed them both to experiment and discover new aspects to their music. “He is really good about pushing my listening ear and writing, and exposing me to things,” Emily McCollum said. “There is something about writing emotionally intense songs with your sibling.” Music has strengthened their bond as brother and sister, as well as influenced much of the band’s lyrical compositions. “There is this strange wavelength that we are both on,” she said. “People always say, ‘Your harmonies are so tight.’ I don’t know why. It must

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Caleb Franklin / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Olive Grill mostly draws from Iranian cuisine but also incorporates Greek and Lebanese.

# Olive Grill authentic Mediterranean cuisine

Kasey Meredith  
@K\_SEEEE

Olive Grill is downtown’s new hole-in-the-wall restaurant. This lunchtime spot located on Taylor Street serves Mediterranean food such as pita sandwiches, soups, salads, platters and everyone’s favorite — gyros. Family owned and operated by Abdi and Leslie Nasehi, Olive Grill gives off the friendly, quaint and authentic vibe like no other. Nevertheless, the food is the real deal. The chef, Abdi

Nasehi, moved to the U.S. to attend college — later, he asked his mother to send spices as he became interested in his Iranian cooking roots. Leslie Nasehi, Abdi’s wife and co-owner of Olive Grill, said that many Mediterranean dishes “have similar threads to Persian or Iranian foods.” For instance, “the Greeks call their little yogurt and cucumber sauce tzatziki — in Iranian cooking its called maast-o khiair,” Leslie said. Because of this, Olive Grill’s menu is ethnically eclectic. They

draw cuisine inspirations mostly from Iranian sources, but also Greek, Lebanese, Moroccan and other Mediterranean cultures. The creation of Olive Grill was fate. Formerly living in Jacksonville, Florida, the Nasehis were visiting friends in Columbia when car troubles extended their stay. While exploring the area, they happened upon the space that is now the restaurant’s location. Within just one year, Olive Grill has come a long way —

SeeGRILLPAGE5

# Editor tells origin story of Onion

Belvin Olasov  
@BELVINOLASOV

Scott Dikkers looks unassuming. With a black sweater, Midwestern charm and a very bald head, he gives off a Steve Jobs/Woody Harrelson vibe. But Dikkers is the adoptive father of one of the biggest comedy institutions out there: The Onion. Wednesday night, he came to USC courtesy of Carolina Productions to tell the scrappy origin story of the publication. As a Midwestern teenager without the Internet, Dikkers lacked a clear path to a comedy career, so he worked on comic strips as a way to get his name out. He cycled through idea after idea until one stuck. “I drew comic strips like Ulysses S. Grant waged war — I didn’t care how many troops I sacrificed,” Dikkers said. His comic, “Jim’s Journal,” soon found success, and he was contacted by University of Wisconsin-Madison students Tim Keck and Christopher Johnson to draw comics for their new college humor magazine, then conceived as “The Rag.” That was soon switched to The Onion, partially because The Rag seemed crude and partially because Johnson would eat raw onion on a piece of bread for breakfast. Keck and Johnson proved to be more entrepreneurs than humorists, and shortly after making Dikkers editor-in-chief they offered to sell him the paper. Dikkers scrounged up the \$3000 asking price and started the task of shepherding The Onion to greatness, starting with hiring more writers.

SeeONIONPAGE5



**GRILLPAGE4**

they won an award known as the “Golden Spatula” for receiving a 100 percent on their health inspection.

“It was a pleasant surprise,” Leslie said. And without a doubt, the restaurant is impeccably clean.

Good value for good food, Olive Grill makes a mean chicken pita. They also make a barbecue pita, which is a nice spin on a classic and pays homage to South Carolina cuisine; “tart and tangy,” Leslie said.

They have many Mediterranean cuisine staples worth mentioning

and trying, including the lamb and lima bean platter and the falafel pita. Falafel, hummus and tzatziki are also familiar friends in their kitchen.

Olive Grill is not staying the same; Leslie said, “one thing about Abdi Nasehi’s cooking is that he’s very inventive, so the menu is always changing.”

In addition to being mostly vegetarian-friendly, everything is freshly made. The pitas are made to order, which is a comforting quality in the age of fast food. As they say in their motto, Olive Grill really is “where healthy meets tasty.”

**STAGBRIARPAGE4**

be in the blood.”

Stagbriar has played at New Brookland Tavern, Music Farm and many other venues around Columbia. Last year, they performed at SXSW in Austin, Texas with a Columbia organization that helped local bands perform at the festival.

“It was very much an adventure,” Emily McCollum said. “The car broke down on the way there and on the way back. Being at the festival, we spent maybe a fifth of our time playing music. The rest of the time we were a part of the party.”

Emily McCollum enjoyed this small taste of tour life, and looks forward to new opportunities to share their music on the road, but they haven’t lost sight of home. The siblings have lived and played in Columbia their entire lives.

“The older I get the more I appreciate the community that Columbia has,” she said. “We’ve got a good community of people here who care about each other and who care about music.”

Emily McCollum has worked

with Girls Rock Columbia the past two years and is looking forward to a third year with the “fantastic movement.”

“It is my favorite week of the year probably,” she said. “Girls Rock has brought even more to life the females in our community who want to have a voice. Getting to work with those young girls is awesome.”

When Emily McCollum is not writing music, going to class or volunteering, she spends her time working at a local toy store and googling pictures of gourmet doughnuts.

“I haven’t had them (gourmet doughnuts), but it is just something that I want,” she said. “Every city has them, every cool city has them. Where is our gourmet doughnut shop?”

However, Emily McCollum’s gourmet doughnut quest has not stopped the band from writing and working constantly. The band doesn’t have any shows scheduled right now, but their newest music video is available on the band’s Facebook and the NPR Tiny Desk contest.



Hannah Cleaveland / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

**Dickers took questions through tweets, and then grew annoyed at their goofiness.**

**ONIONPAGE4**

“We did not search high and low. We mostly just searched low,” Dickers said, listing “dropouts, shut-ins, disaffected liquor stores clerks, grocery store clerks who crack up customers in line, minimum wage slave service workers” as their target employees.

The gamble paid off — Dickers’ strategy of hiring misanthropes and giving them creative freedom turned out to be the perfect recipe for sharp comedy.

“If you leave people alone, that’s often when they do their most successful work,” Dickers said.

The Onion grew as a successful humor publication, mixing their now-signature fake news with cartoons and other miscellaneous humor pieces.

What truly launched The Onion into what it is today came in two parts. First, Dickers revamped The Onion to commit to the fake newspaper idea, as he felt that was what they were strongest at. Then,

around that time, The Onion created a website during the nascent stages of the Internet, where comedy websites were few and far between.

Dickers chose to reinvest The Onion’s newfound money back into the publication, and as owner, that meant he wasn’t getting paid.

“I could not pay my bills, and I became homeless,” Dickers said.

He found sleep in odd places, taking up with a family that took pity on him by sleeping on a mattress in their garage until their dog peed on it.

“By any other standard, [that] would be a nadir in my life,” Dickers said. “It wasn’t ... I think back on that time and, literally, it was one of the happiest of my life. Because all this work we had done at The Onion had come to fruition.”

The Onion’s story has a happy ending — with a host of successful spinoffs, it’s practically a comedy empire. But Dickers managed to vividly recreate the early days, when it was an underground success with everything to prove.



The Daily Gamecock on



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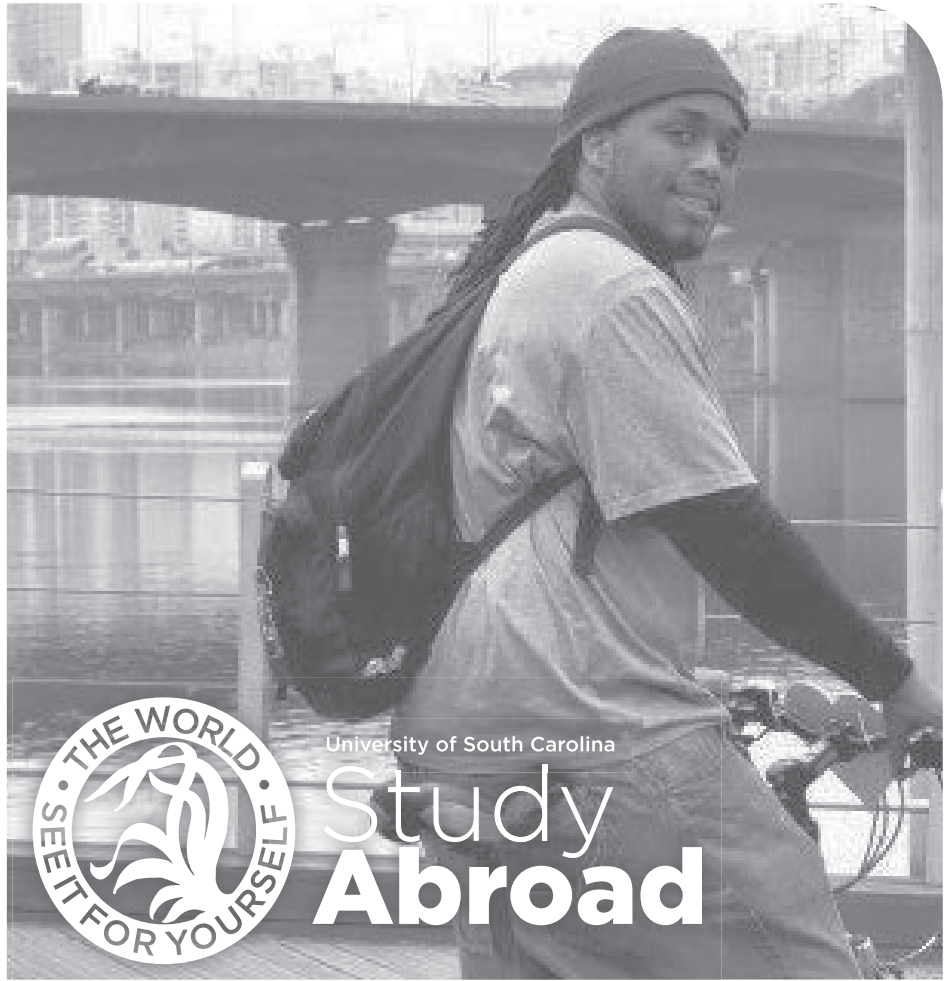
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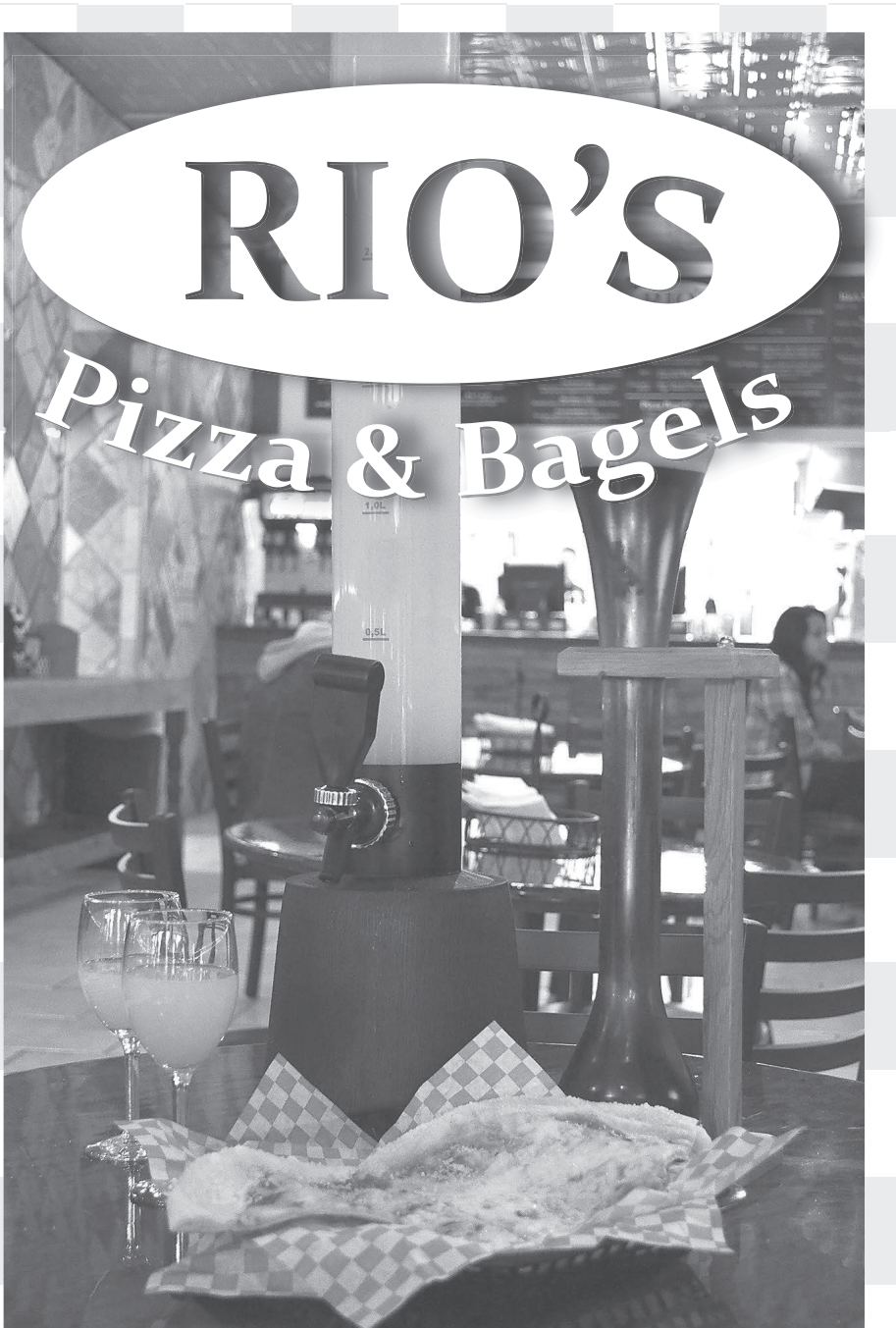
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# Republicans need to rethink social issues

Before going any further, I would like to emphasize that I am not a member of either of the two major political parties in the U.S. I decide who to vote for based on their positions, not their party.

With that said, I would like to discuss some of my observations about the current political environment. One theme that has endured over at least the past several years is the competition among Republican politicians, especially during the primary phase, to appear more conservative than another.

This jockeying for position is exciting to many of the parties’ most staunch supporters; however, it is generally unappealing to the average voter. This is especially true with several key social issues.

The first one that comes to mind is same-sex marriage. I can say with extraordinary confidence that the U.S. Supreme Court will rule this summer that state level same-sex marriage bans are a violation of the Constitution’s 14th Amendment. That inevitable ruling would be a perfect opportunity for GOP leaders to stop endorsing discrimination, catch up with the rest of the nation and embrace the freedom to marry.

The next issue that comes to mind is drug policy. Republicans are generally resistant to reforming the nation’s drug laws, instead boasting about how they are “tough on crime.” This is a flawed approach, however, and as more states reform their drug laws, the more their message comes across as out of touch.

Instead of repeating their vows to maintain the failed drug war, a young Republican running for office for the first time could endorse legislation establishing

a medical marijuana program in their state under the rationale of helping veterans with PTSD. A 2008 study by the Rand Corporation estimates that up to 20 percent of service members who return from Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from PTSD.

Since Republicans are generally more supportive of military spending and intervention, and like to portray themselves as being the superior party for “supporting our troops,” they could boost their credentials in that regard by pushing legislation to make medical marijuana more accessible to veterans.

Another outdated position that Republicans should reconsider is their opposition to immigration reform. This stance is demeaning to hardworking, honest people from other nations who wish to provide a better life for their family by immigrating legally to the U.S. On this issue, Republicans should take the advice of free market economists, and endorse more liberal immigration policies.

The enthusiastic support among GOP leaders for the death penalty is also out of touch. Republicans should take seriously the concerns of experts that the death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment, cannot be conducted humanely, regardless of method, doesn’t deter crime, is too costly, disproportionately affects minorities and is a drain on the time and resources of our court system.

The final issue that Republicans should reconsider is their stance on abortion. Over the past several years, Americans have witnessed a devout obsession among GOP leaders to pass legislation designed to make it more onerous and

burdensome for women to obtain a legal abortion. This issue is obviously very divisive, and many Americans have sincerely held beliefs, either from religion or other sources, that abortion is morally wrong in many or all circumstances, and must be ended. However, Republicans must take into account that regardless of what legislation they pass, abortion can never truly be “ended.”

Just like with drug prohibition, alcohol prohibition and gun control, restricting abortion is neither an effective nor appropriate solution. Instead, Republicans should get the government out of regulating abortion, allow women to make their own reproductive choices and focus their efforts on issues with far greater agreement, such as preventing sexual assault on college campuses.

With that critique, many may be wondering if there is anything that Republicans do well, and the answer is yes. Economic issues are an area in which Republicans have ideas that can succeed. Advocating for cuts in the corporate income, personal income, real estate, capital gains, dividend, payroll, estate, repatriation and other taxes are all changes that would make Americans better off.

Combining these tax cuts with a repeal of nonsensical business regulations and a liberalized perspective on social issues, Republicans can create an environment much more conducive to prosperity, not just for themselves, but more importantly for America as a whole.

—Chad Brown, third-year Finance student



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# Students should be invested in change

## ISSUE

Students Invested in Change forms on campus.

## OUR STANCE

Students right to get involved in social activism.

After Ferguson, we praised the conversation about change that was started on this campus.

Now, we are glad to see that students are turning talk into action with the creation of the Students Invested in Change organization.

While many lament the demise of youth activism on college campuses, here is an example to point to of students not content to be buffeted by outside forces and willing to work for their beliefs. The energy and passions of college students have served their communities well in pushing for social and political changes in the past, and hopefully this group of students can continue the tradition of colleges serving as institutions that push for growth in ideas and practices.

The opportunity for a forum to address societal grievances through action also allows for individual students to push for constructive agitation. While certain groups on campus address certain issues, some concerns of a larger scope remain harder to tackle. By banding together with a broad

mission, students can take a wider worldview when addressing problems like quality of education or nastiness on social media.

Although this group was born out of the unrest in Ferguson and the larger questions about race that it provoked, we applaud the organization for not limiting themselves to minority issues. While those are certainly some of the largest issues that communities wrestle with, continued racial injustice is by no means the only thing that our generation sees as needing to change.

One of the organization’s goals, to strive for greater adherence to the Carolinian Creed, shows the nature of this group. By advancing the philosophy and

values of the university, this group could serve not only as a force for change but also as a positive reflection upon our school. After all, isn’t that what people ask of their community? That it

upholds the basic values they believe to be the best side of human nature, and that individuals work towards those standards?

We certainly believe that Students Invested in Change has the potential to be a force in spreading those values, and we wish them well as they organize and take action to make our community a better place.

“The opportunity... allows for individual students to push for constructive agitation.”

## WHAT’S YOUR TAKE?

Want to see your opinions voiced in The Daily Gamecock? Send guest columns and letters to the editor to [viewpoints@dailygamecock.com](mailto:viewpoints@dailygamecock.com).

Keep submissions between 300 to 600 words. Submissions are edited for clarity, grammar and style.

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This letter is in response to a column written by Ben Crawford and published on Jan. 27 entitled “Absolute certainty essential ingredient for horror.”

In response to yours and Mr. Johnson’s discussion, I would like to interject with my own opinions. I happen to agree with you concerning the idea that most religions do, in fact, claim certain truths, particularly when it comes to a god or gods. After all, the idea of a religion is that you are able to come together with others who share similar beliefs in such a god or gods.

However, I think that is where our similarities end.

The existence of a deity is something that many religions have in common, as is a religion’s ability to be used as a tool for understanding the world around and beyond us. However, just because religion is used as a tool in those ways does not mean that religion is as easily created as other tools, like a hammer or nail. The ideas inherent in any world religion were not just thought up overnight. Most religions have taken thousands of years to evolve to what they are today and most are still evolving. To say that they were man-made is one thing; to say that they were easily made is another entirely and is one example of how exercises in tact may help your career as a journalist.

For those who follow a particular religion, it is almost certain that the morals instilled in them by their religion were highly influential in the decisions they made concerning politics, science or any number of other fields that don’t necessarily have anything to do with religion. Religion would not have been unnecessary at all. It would have been the guiding force in their lives. Any philosopher would be able to tell you that.

Moving on, I find it appalling that you would compare Christmas, a holiday which has its roots in religion, despite the fact that many people practice it secularly, to female genital mutilation, a practice which is not religious in nature. FGM, while disgusting and reprehensible, is done for a variety of reasons, depending on the culture practicing it, namely as a method to control the libido.

Christmas is, in fact, a religious holiday. It celebrates the birth of the man that Christians believe opened the gates of Heaven for the world. Yes, the practices come from places all over the world. Yes, the actual date of this man’s birth was months away from the date it is celebrated. But Christmas is a holiday that brings people all over the world together in celebration as a part of their religion.

Female genital mutilation is commonly and mistakenly thought to be part of some religious cultures by both some practitioners and by those ignorant to facts. There is, otherwise, no connection to religion. The fact that you thought to make that comparison is a very good indication that you know absolutely nothing of the difference between needlessly offending a large group of people and using just the tiniest bit of thought by naming a practice that is actually comparable, rather than one that is going to make the most people look at what you’ve written simply because of how inflammatory it is.

Which brings me to the subject of retaliation. If a group feels wounded, odds are they will indeed retaliate. That does not mean that they’re going to go on a killing spree. Retaliation describes some sort of revenge; it doesn’t necessarily mean that

because I am angry about the blatant disregard you seem to have both for the people reading your article and for the amount of thought or research you put into your articles I am going to physically harm you in any way the next time I see you. In this case, my retaliation is in the form of this letter. To say that everyone who retaliates is going to kill someone is just ridiculous.

One last point I’d like to make concerns what you say about the Charlie Hebdo attacks. Those specific attacks very clearly had to do with religion. In that regard, you are correct, in my opinion. However, I think the point Mr. Johnson was trying to make was that a different attack of similar force could just have easily been carried out for any number of reasons.

Take the San Antonio movie shooting, the Isla Vista killings, or your pick of the thousands of attacks that have occurred for nonreligious reasons. It is impossible to say that if the men in the above mentioned shootings had preferred bombs to guns, whether their actions would have been more devastating than they were. Those shootings had nothing whatsoever to do with religion of any kind, and could very easily happen again and again and again. Why? Because people are inherently violent, Mr. Crawford, not religions.

Perhaps instead of writing a response to this letter detailing how vicious certain people who adhere to certain religions are, you should use the time to do a little bit of research and take a look at some of the texts used by modern religions. Take a look at how much violence is taught in those texts, and then compare it to the nonviolent messages within the text.

—Kayla Budny, third-year Chemistry student



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A conflict between career and family arises. Don't assume you know the answer or spend on it. Shed light on the truth without making a determination. Prepare for new responsibilities. Consider each person's resources as you make decisions. Reassure them.

Your team is a big help today. Let them handle the details. Read the fine print. There are valuables hidden in that stack of stuff. Let another take the lead. Prepare for fierce competition by strengthening your network.

What does your partner think? Obstacles in the road could cause sparks to fly. Give each other the benefit of the doubt and avoid upset. Use your best manners. Do your chores. Share your appreciation for a job well done.

Things may not go according to plan. Feelings seem more sensitive than usual. It's not an illusion. Take time to think things over. Friends are there for you. Take authority over your own responsibilities, and let others handle the rest.

Handle basic priorities today and keep income flowing or learn the hard way. A reality check could startle. Go with the flow. Keep practicing and you get through. Relax and enjoy it. Pull in your creative harvest.

Maintain confidence even when there are breakdowns everywhere. Innovative solutions are possible today. Step outside the box. Sift through the fluff for solid data. Think it over, and get feedback from friends and family. Keep the momentum.

Schedule trips and events carefully. Turn down a suggestion that goes against your grain. Figure costs before committing. Cash flow impacts work or vice versa. Friends help you make a connection. Magnetic personalities come together. Breathe deeply.

Take care of health and vitality, for yourself and those nearby. Avoid colds and the flu by getting extra rest, exercise and good food. Hold onto what you have. Cut stress by taking frequent peace breaks. Meditate on a dream.

A perfect storm brews around financial discussion today. Avoid talking about money if possible. Hold onto your cash and avoid provoking jealousies. Manage administrative details, file papers and keep accounts current, but make big decisions together later.

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SO, YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED, THAT'S... GOOD. WHO'S THE LUCKY INDIVIDUAL?

UH...

ACTUALLY, IT'S PROF. KHUMALO.

PROF. KHUMALO? IN OUR DEPARTMENT? HMMM...

THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS MATTER, TAJEL. I'LL HAVE TO CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR, PROF. STEIN, ABOUT THIS.

YES, OF C-

WAIT. AREN'T YOU MARRIED TO PROF. STEIN?

WE'RE AN INCESTUOUS DEPARTMENT. IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM.

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# Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1/29/15

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**ACROSS**

1 Furry foot

4 Sign of healing

8 Affectedly trendy

14 Earth Day prefix

15 Corn Belt state

16 Muzzleloading aid

17 Chinese dog with a blue-black tongue

19 Pierce with a point

20 Ward on TV

21 New York's \_\_\_ Island

23 26th of 26

24 NBA position

26 Doctor whom Captain Kirk calls "Bones"

29 Love, Italianstyle

31 Tot's toy on a track

34 Doo-wop syllable

35 College football's Famous \_\_\_

Potato Bowl

37 Molecule parts

38 Adds color to

40 Cup edge

41 Sensitive spots

42 Texas A&M athlete

43 Port west of Paris

45 \_\_\_-Caps: candy

46 "Make it snappy!"

48 Walks without going anywhere

50 Red giant in the night sky

51 "Sting like a bee" boxer

52 Chicken \_\_\_ king

54 Winner's gesture

57 Adime a dozen, e.g.

61 One-named Tejano singer

64 "Bottoms up!"

66 Pennsylvania home of Lafayette

College

67 Steaks and burgers

68 Off-road ride, briefly

69 Mambo cousin

70 Pell-\_\_: hastily

71 Dim sum sauce

**DOWN**

1 Bench-presser's pride

2 Aleve target

3 What daydreamers gather, metaphorically

4 [Not a typo]

5 Made logical sense

6 Troop truant

7 Cry like a baby

8 Big name in cooking oil

9 It's often smoked

10 Little troublemaker

11 Victor at Little Bighorn

12 Swiss cheese feature

13 Nantes notion

18 City SSW of Dallas

22 Announcement while coming through the door

25 Divide in threes

27 By the seashore

28 Septi- plus one

29 End on \_\_\_ note

30 Fruit-based chip dip

31 Tweet

For solutions to today's puzzle, go to **[dailygamecock.com](http://dailygamecock.com)** or download our app!

32 Broken mirrors, to some

33 \_\_\_ buco: veal dish

34 Opp. of legato, in music

36 Shady spots

39 Helpful hints

44 Brittany or cocker

47 Largest city of the West Indies

49 Cosmo concern: Abbr.

52 "Hang on \_\_\_!"

53 Rachel's sister

55 SALT subject

56 Indian butter

58 "Got it!" cries

59 Longtime Yugoslav president

60 Green emotion?

62 And so on: Abbr.

63 Japanese drama

65 Org. with Giants and Titans



# Gamecocks expect future win



Jeffrey Davis / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The South Carolina women's basketball team has already met the Crimson Tide earlier in the season and won 102-58 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

**Brennan Doherty**  
@BRENNAN\_DOHERTY

When the No. 1 South Carolina women's basketball team (19-0, 7-0) takes the court Thursday night against Alabama (12-10, 1-6), the Gamecocks will be coming off arguably their best performance of the year.

Before Monday night's 79-61 win over No. 12 Texas A&M, South Carolina had beaten several Top-25 opponents earlier in the season, but had yet to dominate a team as talented as the Aggies.

Although the Gamecocks wouldn't pull away from Texas A&M until halfway through the second half, head coach Dawn Staley's team showed just how talented it is by dominating several, if not all facets of the game.

South Carolina's depth stood out as the Gamecock bench outscored

Texas A&M's 41-8 while a mixture of young and veteran players contributed.

Freshman power forward A'ja Wilson led South Carolina with 18 points, while veteran junior shooting guard Tiffany Mitchell added 16.

Sophomore center Alaina Coates and senior power forward Aleighsa Welch also dominated in the paint. Coates posted a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds while Welch scored 12 points while recording seven boards.

As a team, South Carolina shot 49 percent from the field.

The Gamecocks also kept up the pressure on defense, forcing Texas A&M into 16 turnovers.

Overall, Staley was very pleased with her team's performance.

"I thought we came out just really focused at the task at hand," Staley said. "Of course, we want to go inside and I thought we did that. I thought Tiffany Mitchell just played

with an incredible amount of focus on both sides of the ball."

However, with the Crimson Tide coming to the Colonial Life Arena, the Gamecocks had little time to savor Monday's victory.

But if South Carolina can play the way it did the last time it faced Alabama, the Gamecocks will have little to worry about.

That's because Alabama allowed the Gamecocks to score 100 plus points in a regular-season SEC game for the first time earlier in the month as South Carolina won 102-59 in Tuscaloosa.

The Gamecocks shot a season-high 63.8 percent in that game and Coates, one of six South Carolina players to score in double-digits against the Crimson Tide, led with 20 points.

Since Staley took over at South Carolina at the beginning of the 2008-2009 season, her teams are a perfect 10-0 against Alabama.

Still, Staley has been reiterating to her team that just because the Gamecocks won the last time they faced Alabama, it doesn't mean a similar result will automatically reduplicate itself.

"We have to prep, we have to make sure because they're playing different basketball now," Staley said. "They're playing a little bit more energized."

Alabama is looking to finish the 2014-2015 season with a winning record for the first time since the 2010-2011 season, but the Crimson Tide is just 1-6 in conference play.

One bright spot for Alabama has been the play of sophomore forward Ashley Williams. The Covington, GA native is averaging a team-high 13.6 points per game.

Williams scored 10 points in Alabama's prior loss to South Carolina.



Jeffrey Davis / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Tigers took a 7-0 run in the final minute and a half to win the game.

## BASKETBALLPAGE1

with the record of 15-14 in their meetings, South Carolina has only won four out of seven of the games played in Baton Rouge.

It was a close game from the beginning but it was LSU leading 29-28 at the end of the first half, and at the beginning of the second both teams continued to fight for the lead till the end with them scoring an additional 35 points in the second half compared to South Carolina's 30 points.

The Gamecock's sophomore guard Duane Notice showed a lot of dedication along with sophomore guard Sindarius Thornwell scoring 12 and 11 points, respectively. Two more exceeding players included senior guard Tyrone Johnson and junior forward Michael Carrera scoring 10 and nine points, respectively.

For the Tigers sophomore guard Tim Quarterman showed a lot of promise

with his 16 points of the game followed by junior guard Keith Hornsby and sophomore forward Jordan Mickey scoring 15 and 14 points, respectively.

South Carolina only scored 21 out of its 61 field goal attempts compared to LSU scoring 22 out of its 48 field goals attempts.

Also the Tigers had the Gamecocks beat on their free throws with scoring 15 out of 19 attempts compared to 9 out of 15 attempts, respectively.

On the other hand South Carolina had LSU beat on rebounds with a total of 42 compared to 34, respectively.

The Tigers came up with the most momentum in the end scrambling up six points ahead of the Gamecocks attaining from rebounds and foul shots.

South Carolina will return home adding another loss to their season against a major SEC school. The Gamecocks take on Georgia at home later this week.

# Women's tennis looks to succeed

**Will Helms**  
@WILL\_HELMS

The South Carolina women's tennis team started its season strong in Albuquerque last weekend going on an impressive 4-0 run.

The 21st ranked Gamecocks have their highest ITA ranking since 2011 and hope their strong play will continue this weekend as they face a brutal two match stretch.

The team will face the No. 10 Virginia Cavaliers in Charlottesville on Friday before returning to the Palmetto State for a Sunday afternoon match at No. 13 Clemson.

The Cavaliers are coming off a 6-1 loss to the No. 6 Baylor Bears that looks much worse than it was. With two players sick with the flu, Virginia was forced to forfeit their No. 3 slot in doubles and their No. 5 and 6 spot in singles, respectively.

Still, the Cavaliers are confident and eager to play in front of a home crowd for the first time this year.

The Gamecocks are also brimming with confidence.

After allowing just four points in four matches, the Gamecocks are ready for their first real test of the season.

Wins this weekend would thrust the team into the national spotlight along with an inevitable jump in the rankings.

Senior Elixane Lechemia has been lights out thus far, going 4-0 in singles so far from the first slot. She'll have her work cut out for her Friday though as she will

in all likelihood go up against Virginia's Julia Elbaba, the top player in the country. Elbaba went 12-2 in the fall, including a 9-1 record against ranked opponents. She closed out the fall season with a win at the USTA/ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships. She missed the opener with the flu.

In addition to Elbaba, the Cavaliers have two others ranked in the top 50: juniors Stephanie Nauta and Danielle Collins. Elbaba and Nauta are also the No. 22 doubles team.

With so many strong players at the top of the rotation for the Cavaliers, much of the pressure will fall on the No. 4, 5 and 6 players for the Gamecocks.

The Gamecocks went a combined 6-3 from those slots last weekend and could use a strong showing Friday.

Clemson boasts the No. 2 doubles team in the nation and two players in the top 100. The Tigers started the season with wins over Winthrop and Purdue by scores of 6-1 and 5-0, respectively.

While the rivalry aspect alone makes this a huge match, both teams are hot. The Sunday afternoon match is the lone match between the rivals this year. It is also the last match the Gamecocks will play against a ranked opponent before beginning SEC play Feb. 27.

If the Gamecocks can get through the weekend with wins, the team will be in prime shape going forward.